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## R. W. THOMPSON HONORED

The National Personal Liberty League Gives its Annual Banquet with the Popular Young Indian as Special Guest—An Eloquent Testimonial to the Rising Factors in Race Progress—Toasts and Those who Responded.

The best evidence of a man's worth and ability, and the esteem in which he is held by a community, is the testimony of those with whom he is brought into intimate daily contact, and who have had the widest opportunities for observing the metes and bounds of his nature. Judged by this standard, Mr. Richard W. Thompson has every reason to feel proud of the unqualified expression of approval voiced last Wednesday evening by Washington's most representative citizens in the grand banquet hall of the Delmonico-Koonce Cafe. Few young men have been more royally treated than the young Indian.

The occasion was the fifth annual dinner of the National Colored Personal Liberty League, which boasts of more than 5,000 members, scattered over every section of the country. It is the custom of the League to select each year some distinguished gentleman as its special guest, and at this time the honor of receiving its respects fell to Mr. Thompson, as a compliment to the young men of the race who are struggling earnestly, conscientiously and manfully to hold aloft the banner of the Negro people. As president of the Second Baptist Lyceum, secretary of the National Afro-American Council, associate editor of The Colored American and staff correspondent for several other journals, Mr. Thompson has made his influence felt for good, and there is a universality of sentiment that the League's selection was timely and fitting.

Fifty or more invited guests sat down to a table arranged T shape, and garnished with the richness and profusion characteristic of that eminent young caterer, Mr. J. S. Koonce. The hall was beautifully decorated with American flags, ferns and portraits of prominent public men. One of the main features of the decoration was a banner representing every state in the Union. The menu was toothsome and elaborate, with all kinds of appetizing trimmings. At 8:30 o'clock Mr. Charles C. Curtis of Iowa, chairman of the committee on arrangements, arose and introduced Rev. E. S. Willett of Iowa, who invoked the divine blessing, after which Mr. Curtis made a brief address, highly complimentary to the guest of honor, and giving a brief history of the organization, after which he introduced Prof. L. M. Hershaw of Georgia as toastmaster. Mr. Hershaw, after making a short address and welcoming the guests, introduced Mr. H. Clay Hawkins president of the National Colored Personal Liberty League as the first speaker of the evening. Mr. Hawkins paid a glowing tribute to the guest of honor and then in optimistic vein, responded to the toast: "Our Future." He was frequently interrupted by applause.



MR. DANIEL A. P. MURRAY,  
A Representative Washington Afro-American, and the People's Choice for Membership on the School Committee.

Prof. Layton was asked to lead in singing "The Star Spangled Banner" which was sung by the entire company. The toast, "Our Literature," was responded to by Mr. Daniel Murray, Assistant Librarian of Congress. Mr. Murray gave an interesting summary of the literary progress of the race, showing that more than 1,400 books and pamphlets have been written by Negro authors. He also referred to the fact that 400 patents have been granted to Negro inventors and that a Negro invention is 14th on the list of patents. The toast, "Our Young Men," was responded to by Mr. W. T. Menard, Washington correspondent for the New York Age and Dallas Express. Mr. Menard spoke of the passage of the elder men in history and how their places were filled by younger men who took up the work as it was laid down by them. He paid a glowing tribute to the memory and services of Douglass, Bruce and Langston, and showed how their places were being filled by White, Lyons, Cheatham and others. He spoke of the passing on in life of these and how the younger men must fill their

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## Potomac Union's Anniversary.

The 35th anniversary of Potomac Union Lodge, No. 862 G. U. O. F., was celebrated April 19th at Odd Fellow's Hall in the presence of a large audience. The music was excellent and the cake walk was the most entertaining that has been seen here this season. The admirable committee on arrangements was officered as follows: J. W. Lee, chairman; James Thomas, treasurer; G. W. Bell, secretary; T. Rhodes, assistant secretary. The ladies auxiliary included Misses Irene Alexander, Rosa Botts, Mary E. Baltimore, Maud I. Cross, Lillie G. Smith, Minnie Garner, Marie Morgan, Mary Estelle Thomas, Mary Shulton. Mesdames J. W. Lee, Charles Gray, David Hutchinson, C. W. Lee, Charles Long, Rachel Hawkins, Alice Harris, Hermione Morgan, R. J. Holmes, Maggie Thomas.

Prof. Jesse Lawson is one of the most useful members of the race in the country; attacks upon him only serve to draw his friends more closely to his standard. Prof. Lawson's integrity is unimpeachable and his word is his bond.

## DANIEL MURRAY, ESQ.

An Eloquent Tribute to the Sterling Qualities of a Popular Washingtonian—Bruce Grit's Bouquet to a Son of Maryland—His Collecting More Than 1,400 Productions of Negro Authors—For Member of Board of Education.

It does not require much of an effort on the part of any friend of the gentleman whose name heads this article to speak of him in kindly phrase or to endorse him for any office to which he may aspire. For he is unquestionably a man of many strong friendships, and an enthusiastic lover of his race.

Daniel Murray has always been a consistent worker for the upholding of the Negro race, and whenever the occasion required it he has ever been ready with tongue and pen to defend it from attack, or to sing its praises.

The discipline of some men comes through their fight with the hard conditions of their earlier years. Discipline enough he has had, but not of this kind.

The child of Godly and intelligent parents, he started upon life's rugged pathway with the training which, but Negro boys were privileged to receive. The environments of his youth were such as few boys of either race enjoyed. He was one of those whom early prosperity had its chance to spoil; but in whom early Christian consecration—thanks to a good mother—not only resisted its seductions, but wrested it to the highest and purest end. Mr. Murray is a native of Maryland, and in private life and public station he has always reflected the highest credit upon his state himself, and the race to whose interests he is just now devoting his services in the collection and classification of the works of Negro authors, of which I am advised he has gathered together nearly twelve hundred volumes to be exhibited at the Paris Exposition. The magnitude of this task is appalling when one stops to consider, the great amount of physical and mental effort it entails, and the large quantity of "know-how-tiveness," it requires to do the work correctly and satisfactorily.

Mr. Murray however is quite equal to the requirements of the duty, as he is something of a walking encyclopedia; second only in his knowledge of books and authors to that incomparable book-worm and erudite scholar, A. R. Spofford, under whom he has trained for to these many years.

Neither in his literary taste, nor in the preoccupation of his profession—the law nor in his love of domestic retirement does he find a warrant for slighting the duties of a citizen. Though always taking an intelligent interest in politics, he was never a partisan in the sense which subordinated his race or his principles to party. He has always been able to think his own thoughts, and courageous enough to give them voice.

In all the years that he has lived in Washington he has never aspired to hold an elective office. His record as a citizen and as a Christian gentleman, is

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